



National Intelligence Daily

Saturday 1 March 1980

> APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE: MAY 2001

> > Top Secret

CONIDEO-0511X

March 1980

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COLOMBIA: Hostage Situation

Negotiations are continuing between the Colombian Government and the terrorists, although the terrorists claim to be unhappy with the slow progress.

Two Colombian radio stations reported last night that one of the terrorists had threatened that two hostages would be executed because the government had broken off talks. The office of President Turbay, apparently in response to the threat, announced publicly that negotiations could be held in a vehicle parked in front of the occupied Dominican Republic Embassy in view of those inside.

In a telephone call to the US Embassy, Ambassador Asencio said the terrorists may take him and some of the other hostages to Panama; the Panamanians apparently would grant the captors asylum. The Ambassador also reported that the release of some hostages and provision of food have improved morale, and that the captives could move about freely and speak to one another.

In most international situations involving hostages, the release of some hostages and the relaxation of the terrorists' initial deadline is followed eventually by the release unharmed of the remainder of the hostages.

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